




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Flag Creek Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1997-098	<b>MINERAL:</b> Dimension stone	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Raining	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 7, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Flat Top Flagstone, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Shawn Bolton	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$194,066.87	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 28, 2024	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>NA</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION-- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The Flag Creek Mine is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 140 permitted acres. The site is located 11 miles south of Meeker, Colorado and is accessed from County Road 13. Shawn Bolton represented the operator and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division on the inspection.

### **Acid And Toxic Materials:**

Jugs with oil and other hydrocarbons were observed throughout the mine site. All hydrocarbons must be stored within a secondary containment.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

The operator is working to widen the mining benches. The flagstone is layered near vertical and is 'plucked' off in sheets. The mining operation is working in the existing footprint moving towards the west. Currently all highwalls are near vertical. The excavated highwall is approximately 1500LF from north to south and approximately 25 ft high. There are several mini benches within the larger excavation area.

### **Explosives:**

Explosives are not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The Division holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$190,066.87. The increase occurred with SI-2 in 2016. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

No exposed water was observed.

### **Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:**

This is an active operation. The operator is continuing efforts to clean up the staging area. No washing, asphalt or cement production occur at this site. Stone is transported from the quarry area to the staging area via pickup truck and flat bead trailer. The staging area is to remain for post-reclamation as requested by the landowner.

Note that under the approved mining plan only phase 1 may be disturbed at this time. Permit maps and plans for Phases 2 and 3 shall be submitted prior to disturbances and bonding adjusted accordingly.

### **Roads:**

The new access road approved under TR-2 has been completed. It is a much gentler slope than the previous road and appears to be well maintained. The original mine access road should be removed as part of final reclamation. If the landowner would like this feature to remain post reclamation a technical revision to the Reclamation Plan should be submitted.

### **Reclamation Success:**

No reclaimed areas were observed.

**Revegetation:**

Noxious weeds were observed on site, specifically thistle and hound's tongue. Treatment was observed in some areas but not site wide. It was indicated by Mr. Bolton that he had been spraying and ran out of chemical but planned to continue. Treatments of weeds should be ongoing through the growing season. Repeated treatments will likely be necessary with the grazing of the property. Its note that thistles were documented as a problem prior to the site being permitted and are not specifically related to mining but under Rule 3.1.10 need to be managed.

**Support Facilities On-site:**

There are several broken and weathered wooden pallets scattered throughout the mine site. If these items are decapitated and cannot be used for hauling product off site, they should be removed from the mine site.

**Signs and Markers:**

A mine sign was posted at the entrance to the mine site as required by Rule 3.1.12(1). The information depicted was correct/ up to date and the sign was of sufficient size. The permit boundary of the affected land was clearly delineated primarily by t-posts with a white PVC sleeve pursuant to Rule 3.1.12(2).

**Topsoil:**

There are no apparent topsoil stockpiles on this site. If topsoil is encountered, please salvage and stockpile accordingly. The approved reclamation plan calls for use of borrow topsoil from a location within the permit boundary as the source of topsoil for reclamation of the mining area.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Rm 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver Co 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 970-210-1272 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

**Inspection Contact Address**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**





















